

Inclement Weather Policy

All CAYSA Member clubs shall adopt either this weather policy (with appropriate local specifications) or a policy that is stricter than this policy. Minimum standards for such a policy must include:

For Member Club Fields

- 1) All fields will be closed for ALL activities and cleared immediately under any of the following conditions:
 - a. Thunder heard or Lightning seen AND Lightning within 10 miles of fields using available sensors, apps, etc.
 - b. Lightning detected within ten miles of field regardless of visual or audible presence.

If sensor equipment is not available, the presence of lightning or thunder will require closure of the fields.

If a playing facility has a commercially installed lightning detection system, the C may rely upon the recommendations of the manufacturer. If the system requires a discretionary input on distance of lightning, the member club shall utilize a distance no less than 10 miles.

- 2) If fields are closed under part 1), players, coaches, referees, managers, families and spectators are to seek immediate shelter from these events.

Examples of safe cover include:

- Vehicle - enclosed and windows up
- Enclosed buildings with four walls, plumbing, and electrical wiring

It is the responsibility of all present at the field to clear the field when any of the above conditions occur.

- 3) Activities can resume under following conditions:
 - 30 minutes has passed since last lightning seen or thunder heard; AND
 - Lightning has moved more than 10 miles from the fields
- 4) If activities are resumed, responsible officials must continue to monitor and be prepared to clear the field if lightning should move back within 10 miles.

IMPORTANT: Coaches or board members may always take action to suspend activities on the fields if they deem it necessary for the safety of the

players, such as in the case of darkening or threatening skies or extreme rain events. This policy should never be interpreted to prevent or limit a parent, coach or member club director from taking appropriate action to ensure the safety of players or spectators.

For Non-CAYSA Fields

In the event that the hosting club does not have a field safety policy comparable to above, CAYSA members should follow the procedures in this policy and remove all CAYSA players and coaches from the area. A coach may remove his players from a game for safety reasons even if the referee has not suspended the match.

Monitoring Weather

Member Club board members will track weather conditions and will close home fields when the board feels that conditions are unsafe. Coaches should monitor conditions present when fields are open. There are many different mobile apps that members can use to track weather, including:

- WeatherBug's embedded tool – SPARK
- LightningCast

We encourage all members to be part of the solution in keeping everyone safe. If you hear thunder or see lightning, please approach the referee and coaches, advising them of your observation in that they may have not seen or heard it themselves.

Communications

Each member club shall develop a multi-channel communications methodology to quickly inform players, parents, coaches and referees of field closure decisions. These mechanisms may include web postings, social media postings, group e-mails, text or messaging systems or visual signage.

Each member club weather policy shall provide a means to notify anyone on the field at the time of closure of the decision to close the fields. The notice method may be visual (i.e. flashing light) or audio based (i.e. horn or whistle). If an audio method is used, the signal shall be four short, sharp signals. The method must be sufficient to alert all fields at the location.

Each member club shall post a copy of its policy on its website.

Black Flag Policy

If the member club closes any fields due to inclement weather, no practice activities may take place on member club fields, or in any other outdoor location without the prior approval of the designated member club officer.

If the member club issues a “black flag” alert, no soccer activities, including travel, are permitted until the alert is removed.

Implementation and Training

The member club policy shall require that all coaches and board members receive and acknowledge this policy either by signing a physical copy or affirmatively accepting an electronic notice. If notice is given electronically, the acknowledgment must be contained on the policy or available only after the policy has been opened and fully viewed. The policy must be acknowledged by a participating coach or board member at least once each seasonal year, and prior to that coach or board member’s participation in practice or game activities where youth players are present.

Member Club Modifications

CAYSA member clubs may modify this policy to impose stricter requirements. A copy of the modified policy should be provided to CAYSA with your annual reconciliation.

If a member club wishes to develop a policy that is not based on the standards of this policy, that policy shall be submitted to CAYSA with a certification from an American Meteorological Society Certified Consulting Meteorologist (CCM) that the policy is “reasonably calculated to protect players, coaches and spectators from the foreseeable harms of inclement weather, considering the probability and magnitude of the potential harm to others.”

CAYSA Implementation and Evaluation

In each Fall Reconciliation, CAYSA shall require the following information:

- 1) Has member club adopted an inclement weather policy and informed all coaches, managers and board members of the policy.
- 2) Attach a copy of your policy
- 3) Provide a link to the posting of your policy on your website.

SAMPLE MEMBER CLUB POLICY

For Member YSA Fields

- 1) All fields will be closed for ALL activities and cleared immediately under any of the following conditions:
 - c. Thunder heard or Lightning seen AND Lightning within 10 miles of fields using available sensors, apps, etc.
 - d. Lightning detected within ten miles of field regardless of visual or audible presence.

If no sensor equipment is available, the fields shall be closed in the presence of thunder or lightning.

- a) If fields are closed under part 1), players, coaches, referees, managers, families and spectators are to seek immediate shelter from these events. Examples of safe cover include:

- Vehicle - enclosed and windows up
- Enclosed buildings with four walls, plumbing, and electrical wiring

It is the responsibility of all present at the field to clear the field when any of the above conditions occur.

- b) Activities can resume under following conditions:

- 30 minutes has passed since last lightning seen or thunder heard; AND
- Lightning has moved more than 10 miles from the fields

- c) If activities are resumed, coaches and board members present must continue to monitor and be prepared to clear the field if lightning should move back within 10 miles.

IMPORTANT: Coaches or board members may always take action to suspend activities on the fields if they deem it necessary for the safety of the players, such as in the case of darkening or threatening skies or extreme rain events. This policy should never be interpreted to prevent or limit a parent, coach or member club director from taking appropriate action to ensure the safety of players or spectators.

For Non-Member YSA Fields

In the event that the hosting club does not have a field safety policy comparable to this policy, **Member YSA** members should follow the procedures in this policy

and remove all **Member YSA** players and coaches from the area. A coach may remove his players from a game for safety reasons even if the referee has not suspended the match. **Member YSA** policies for resumption of activities should be followed in reaching a decision to return any **Member YSA** players or coaches to the field.

Monitoring Weather

[Designated **Member YSA** representative(s)] will track weather conditions and will close home fields when the board feels that conditions are unsafe. Coaches should monitor conditions present when fields are open. Each team's coach or manager should have at least one weather tracking app available during any on field activities. There are many different mobile apps that members can use to track weather, including:

- WeatherBug's embedded tool – SPARK
- LightningCast

We encourage all members to be part of the solution in keeping everyone safe. If you hear thunder or see lightning, please approach the referee and coaches, advising them of your observation in that they may have not seen or heard it themselves.

Communications

Decisions to close the field will be communicated by group e-mail to all **Member YSA** players and coaches using the contact information in GotSoccer or other requested contact e-mails. In addition, the decision will be posted on our website and Facebook page.

If a decision is made to close/clear the fields while the fields are in use, a signal of four short, sharp blasts from a whistle will be given in as many areas of the fields as needed to inform all **Member YSA** users. It is the responsibility of the coach to immediately clear the fields upon hearing the signal.

Black Flag Policy

When **Member YSA** closes any fields due to inclement weather, no practice activities may take place on member club fields, or in any other outdoor location without the prior approval of the [designated member club officer.]

If conditions are such as to render even off-field activity hazardous, **Member YSA** will issue a "Black Flag" notice via e-mail and social media. During the time of the Black Flag notice, no soccer activities, including travel, are permitted until the alert is removed.

Implementation and Training

All **Member YSA** coaches, team managers and board members shall receive and acknowledge this policy by signing a physical copy. The policy must be acknowledged by a participating coach or board member at least once each seasonal year, and prior to that coach or board member's participation in practice or game activities where youth players are present. Acknowledgement forms will be kept on file by the Secretary of **Member YSA** for a period of three years.

Acknowledgement (print on separate page so that coach may retain policy)

I have received, read and understand the **Member YSA** Inclement Weather policy.

Coach: _____ (Printed Name)

Teams: _____

Date: ____/____/20____

Signature: _____